



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ST. LOUIS MAN SENTENCED TO 57 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

*Former executive director of Optimist International stored explicit images on personal computer*

ST. LOUIS — The former executive director of Optimist International, and a local resident, was sentenced here this afternoon to 57 months in federal prison for possessing child pornography, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Logan Melville “Trip” Gore, 56, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Eastern District of Missouri.

Gore was originally indicted by a federal grand jury June 23. He turned himself in to the U.S. Marshal Service July 1.



The ICE investigation began in Newark, N.J., following a Child Exploitation Task Force investigation. Email accounts and credit card information of individuals using child pornography sites led to various individuals, including Gore. A March 23 search of Gore’s Optimist International office at 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, discovered 73 sexually explicit child pornography images stored on his personal laptop computer hard drive. According to the agency’s website, Optimist International is a worldwide organization with 105,000 members headquartered in St. Louis “aimed at providing a helping hand to youth.” Optimist International was in no way implicated in this investigation.

“Child pornography is devastating to its innocent victims,” said Gary Hartwig, acting special agent-in-charge of the ICE Chicago office. “Under ICE’s Operation Predator, we’ve placed a high priority on pursuing child pornographers and others who sexually abuse children, with an emphasis on those whose jobs entail interacting with children.” Hartwig heads the ICE Office of Investigations, which includes the states of: Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

Today's arrests are part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals, including 59 in Missouri.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*